

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California
(707) 576-2220

FACT SHEET

ORDER NO. R1-2001-##*
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0023078
I.D. NO. 1B84083OMEN

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

FOR

FORT BRAGG MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1 WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (WWTF)

Municipal wastewater from the City of Fort Bragg is treated by grit removal, comminution, primary clarification, two-stage biofiltration, secondary clarification, and chlorination. The WWTF is designed to treat 1.0 million gallons of wastewater per day (mgd). Wastewater flows vary from approximately 0.4 mgd during dry weather to a maximum of 4.9 mgd during prolonged heavy rainfall. After treatment, wastewater is discharged to the Pacific Ocean at 39° 26' 20" north, 123° 48' 48" west via a 650-foot outfall with a diffuser system designed to produce 50:1 initial dilution at peak flow conditions.

The draft permit will replace an expiring permit. Draft permit conditions were initially prepared for expired permits on the basis of best professional judgement, and some have subsequently been modified as required by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System regulations, the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (Ocean Plan), and the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan). Ocean Plan Table B effluent limitations have been calculated on the basis of 50:1 dilution with water containing no significant amount of the constituent under consideration except where the Ocean Plan specifies dilution water concentrations.

Certain constituents contained in Table B of the Ocean Plan have been deleted from **B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS 1** (Table B) because the Regional Water Board believes that there is no reasonable potential that these constituents will cause, or contribute to, violations of water quality objectives. In the event that monitoring results or other evidence reveals that any of the deleted constituents have a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to violations of water quality objectives, the Regional Water Board may consider revising this permit to include effluent limitations for constituents of concern.

The permittee requested evaluation of eligibility for less restrictive biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5) and total suspended solids (TSS) effluent limits and percent removal requirements from U.S. EPA regulations for trickling filter plants at 40CFR133.105. The expiring permit includes BOD5 and TSS effluent limits from the U.S. EPA definition of secondary treatment at 40CFR133.102. Upset conditions at the Fort Bragg WWTF have caused significant noncompliance with effluent limitations for several years. Discharger monitoring reports indicate trickling filter underdrain collapse was first observed in April of 1993, so performance data was evaluated for the two preceding years of operation. The plant was able to meet permit

effluent concentration limits for BOD5 during that period, but the 95th percentile value of 30-day average TSS concentrations was 37.3 mg/l. The draft permit, therefore, retains the BOD5 effluent limits from the expiring permit, but raises the 30-day and 7-day average effluent limits for TSS to 38 mg/l and 57 mg/l, respectively, using the computational method specified at 40CFR133.101(f). Similarly, 95th percentile removal efficiency for BOD5 was above 85 percent; but was 79.4 percent for TSS during that period; and the draft permit relaxes the required TSS percent removal to 79 percent.

The draft permit includes dry weather mass emission rates for TSS and BOD5 from the expired permit. These limits were computed by multiplying secondary treatment effluent limits defined at 40CFR133.102 by the WWTF dry weather design flow. The draft permit also includes wet weather mass emission rates similarly computed using the WWTF 30-day wet weather design flow of 2.2 MGD. These limits were included in permits prior to 1995, although the daily maximum value was formerly substituted for the 7-day average value because weekly sampling specified by the self-monitoring program provided only one sample for computing the average.

The draft permit specifies shellfish harvesting as a beneficial use and includes Ocean Plan bacterial water quality objectives for shellfish harvesting. The permit includes expanded surf zone monitoring to determine if bacterial levels near the outfall would meet Ocean Plan objectives with reduced disinfection efficiency.

A public meeting to consider comments and objections to the proposed renewed requirements is scheduled to be heard on March 22, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Hearing Room, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California.

Interested persons should submit to the Regional Water Board office at 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403, written copies of all technical reports, testimony, and other evidentiary material concerning this issue by 5:00 p.m. of March 15, 2000. This written material will be submitted to the Regional Water Board Members and all interested persons along with the full agenda materials.

Persons submitting written testimony and documentary evidence should be present at the hearing and available for cross-examination. Testimony at the above scheduled hearing should be limited to a summary of the above described written evidence and testimony, provided however, that upon a proper showing that evidence is available which was not available at the time the written testimony was submitted, the Regional Water Board may allow further submission of oral or written testimony. If this showing is not made, the Regional Water Board may refuse to accept such further oral or written testimony.

The tentative Orders, related documents, and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office on Mondays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., and Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Appointments are recommended for file review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.

For more information, contact Albert Wellman at wella@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov or (707) 576-2665.

* Order number will be issued when adopted

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